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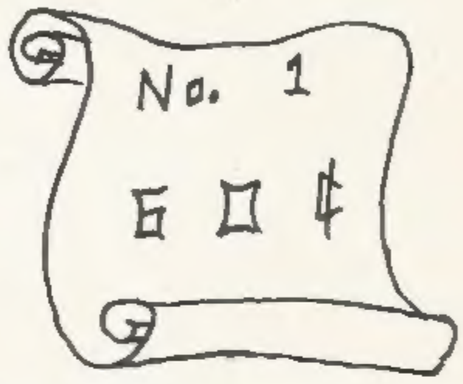

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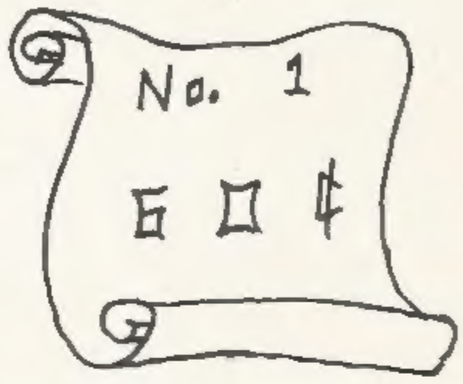

EXCELSIOR-THE FIRST!!!
ONWARD!!!

Shalom!

You hold in your hands (get this):

EXCELSIOR!?!

EXCELSIOR as you all know is the great poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. It's also material they put in boxes to keep stuff from bumping around. So, this magazine takes our ideas and separates them so they don't go bumping into each other.

THE FIRST OF OUR BRAINSTORMS IS AN ORIGINAL STORY OF THAT ALL-TIME GREAT-
THE SHADOW!! WE WERE DISGUSTED WITH THE RADIO COMICS VERSION AND SENT FOR THE RIGHTS TO DO OUR OWN - CONDÉ NAST CONSENTED. IT IS PRECEDED BY AN ARTICLE ON THE SHADOW'S POPULARITY.

OUR OTHER, ORIGINAL, FEATURES ARE: HELMONT DEVRIE - A 1984ISH SF NOVEL. "SCREAM OF THE BUTTERFLY" A STORY IN WHICH SUPER-HEROES TAKE MARIJUANA BEFORE FIGHTING CRIME. THERE'S ALSO "THE TRIVIA FILE" - A MISH-MASH OF ASSORTED NOTES ON YESTERDAY'S MEMORABILIA.

ALSO INCLUDED ARE TWO EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS - STAN LIEBER (LEE) AND JACK KIRBY

A WORD OF THANKS -

TO ALAN HANLEY WITHOUT WHOSE ASSISTANCE - THIS MAGAZINE WOULD NEVER HAVE COME OUT. HE ALSO PROMISED TO DO A STRIP - WHICH SHOULD BE IN THIS ISH!!

EXCELSIOR

CO-EDITORS: SALVATORE CAPUTO &
THE KIZER.

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CREDITS ARE NOT CLEAR ON THE SHADOW, THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS: ORIGINAL SCRIPT: S. CAPUTO; ORIGINAL ART: KIZER; SECONDARY ART, INKING: S. CAPUTO; REWRITE-DIALOGUE LETTERING: KIZER.

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THE WEED OF CRIME - PART I

-The Enigma of the Greatest Mystery Characters of All-Time-

by THE KIZER

DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS OF TIBET, A LONE PLANE STRUGGLES THROUGH A RAGING BLIZZARD. FUEL IS RUNNING DANGEROUSLY LOW AND KENT ALLARD, WWI ACE, DESPERATELY LOOKS FOR A PLACE TO LAND. THE ENGINE BEGINS TO FALTER AND SLOWLY BUT SURELY THE AEROPLANE SINKS TOWARD THE CRAGGY HIMALAYAS.

THEN, AS THE WAR ACE SPOTS WHAT LOOKS LIKE A NATURAL RUNWAY, WITH ALL THE SKILL THAT HE ACQUIRED DURING HIS YEARS OF FLYING, ALLARD BRINGS DOWN THE CRIPPLED CRAFT.

THE PLANE SWERVES AND SKIDS, AT ONE POINT THREATENING TO GO OVER THE STEEP SIDE, BUT FINALLY COMES TO A REST. ALLARD UNSTRAPS HIMSELF AND FOR THE FIRST TIME NOTICES A MAN STANDING IN FRONT OF HIS PLANE. INTRIGUED BY THE FIGURE, ALLARD LEAVES THE PLANE AND WALKS TO THE FIGURE.

THE CLOAKED ORIENTAL SAYS NOT A WORD, BUT LEADS THE WESTERNER TO A SMALL, PAGODA-LIKE BUILDING WHICH IS SHELTERED BY AN OUTCROPPING STONE.

DAYS ARE SPENT WITH THE MYSTERIOUS GURU, IN WHICH ALLARD LEARNS CERTAIN SECRETS AND THE FORMER WWI FLYING ACE UNDERGOES THE METAMORPHOSIS INTO THE SHADOW.

LATER, A MAN NAMED LAMONT CRANSTON COMES TO TIBET AND OFFERS THE SHADOW HIS IDENTITY ALONG WITH HIS COUNTLESS MILLIONS TO FIGHT THE EVER-GROWING MINIONS OF EVIL.

THIS HAS BEEN OUR SOMEWHAT REVAMPED ORIGIN OF THE SHADOW. ANYONE WITH THE NOVEL "THE LIVING SHADOW" IS ASKED TO COMMENT ON HOW CLOSE WE CAME.

BUT, WHAT OF THE SHADOW? THE NIGHT AVENGER? WHY IS HE STILL REMEMBERED AFTER HIS LITERARY DEATH IN 1949 AND AUDIO DEATH IN 1954? BECAUSE NO OTHER FICTIONAL CHARACTER STRUCK FEAR IN THE HEARTS OF MEN AS WELL AS THE SHADOW.

TO FULLY UNDERSTAND ONE MUST GO BACK TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING HIS INCEPTION INTO THE AMERICAN SCENE.

ON BLACK TUESDAY, 1929, OUR GOVERNMENT WAS PLUNGED INTO THE GREAT DEPRESSION. IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE SOME MONEY, STREET AND SMITH PUBLICATIONS PUT TO USE THE NEW MEDIUM OF RADIO. IN 1930 THEY BROUGHT THEIR "DETECTIVE STORY MAGAZINE" TO RADIO IN AN EFFORT TO INCREASE CIRCULATION. ITS ANNOUNCER BECAME THE REAL HIT.

HE OPENED EACH SHOW WITH THIS CHOICE BIT OF MEMORABILIA, "WHO KNOWS WHAT EVIL LURKS IN THE HEARTS OF MEN?" HE CALLED HIMSELF:

THE SHADOW.

THE PEOPLE TOOK HIM TO THEIR HEARTS. HE WAS MYSTERY. HE WAS ADVENTURE. HE HAD A LOT OF MONEY. THE DREAM OF THE TIMES. HERE WAS A MAN WHO WOULD NOT LET HIMSELF BE PUSHED AROUND. THEN, HE WAS A PLEASANT PARADOX. THE SHADOW WAS THE MANIFESTATION OF YOUR CHILDHOOD BOGEYMAN. BUT, THIS ONE WAS GOOD, WAS RICH, AND HAD THE ULTIMATE WEAPON. THE POWER TO CLOUD MEN'S MINDS SO HE WOULD NOT BE SEEN IN FRONT OF A PACKED YANKEE STADIUM. THIS WAS A FORM OF ADVANCED HYPNOTISM, WHICH, ACCORDING TO CHEN T'A TZE [ALLARD'S GURU] COULD ONLY BE PERFORMED BY THE SHADOW WHEN HE WORE HIS ROBE OF NIGHT!

WHAT A KID COULD DO WITH THAT POWER! IMAGINE, ZAPPING YOUR MOTHER INTO NOT SEEING YOU WHEN SHE WANTED YOU TO WASH UP OR GET A HAIR-CUT. IT ISN'T ANY WONDER THAT THE DARK AVENGER WAS POPULAR AMONG CHILDREN OF THE DEPRESSION. THE NAME OF THE CHARACTER IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ADULTS. THIS IS AN EXCELLENT REASON WHY THE ADULTS OF THE TIME HELD THE SHADOW IN HIGH ESTEEM.

A NAME LIKE THE SHADOW JUST CAN'T MISS. IT CONNOTATES A DEEP FOG, DARK ALLEYWAYS, AND MYSTERY BEYOND ALL HUMAN COMPREHENSION. BUT, THE SHADOW WAS BORN BEFORE THE AGE OF BONNIE AND CLYDE.

TO QUOTE FROM JIM HARMON'S <u>THE GREAT RADIO HEROES</u>, "...THE SHADOW WAS A TERM USED IN MANY PIECES OF FICTION TO NAME A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE, SOMETIMES HERO, SOMETIMES VILLAIN." IN FACT, ONE OF THE FIRST EXPERIMENTERS WITH THE SHADOW WAS CHARLES DICKENS.

EARLIER IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, THE SHADOW IDEA REACHED TANGIBILITY, AGAIN TO QUOTE JIM HARMON, "...THE FRENCH VILLAIN FANTOMOS, WHO, LIKE THE SHADOW, ALSO LURKED IN DARK RECESSES OVERHEARING SCHEMES AND EXCHANGING SHOTS WITH ADVERSARIES GARBED IN BLACK CLOTHING AND SLOUCH HAT, BUT WITH THE DISTINCTION THAT, UNLIKE THE SHADOW, HE WORE GLOVES; AND FRANK L. PACKARD'S JIMMIE DALE, ALIAS THE GRAY SEAL, WHO HAD A MASK, SIGNET RING, A CIVILIAN IDENTITY AS A WEALTHY YOUNG MAN ABOUT TOWN, A GIRL FRIEND WHO SOMETIMES USED THE PSEUDONYM 'MARGOT'."

SO, THE PRESENT DAY SHADOW, WHO HAS BEEN REINCARNATED IN A SERIES OF PAPERBACKS BY BELMONT, IS THE END RESULT OF MORE THAN HALF-A-CENTURY OF EVOLUTION. ABOUT 80 YEARS OF GROWTH WOULD GIVE PERFECTION TO ANY CHARACTER AND A TREMENDOUS POPULARITY AS A RESULT.

<u>IN THE NEXT ISSUE</u>: WE WILL PRESENT A DISCUSSION OF HOW THE SHADOW WAS CONCEIVED ON RADIO AND IN THE PULP MAGAZINE FIELD BY WALTER GIBSON.

<u>IN THIS ISSUE</u>: IN ORDER TO FULLY ILLUSTRATE THIS ARTICLE WE HAVE CONCEIVED AN ORIGINAL STORY IN WHICH THE SHADOW STARS. WE HAVE ENDEAVORED TO KEEP ALL THE MYSTERY OF WALTER GIBSON CHARACTER WHILE UPDATING HIM. WE HOPE THE END-PRODUCT HAS **NOT SUFFERED AS A RESULT.** ALL THIS IS DONE WITH THE PERMISSION OF CONDE NAST AND MAY NOT BE REPRINTED ANYWHERE. ON THE NEXT PAGE WE HAVE A LIST OF OUR CHARACTER CAST.

CHARACTERS OF THE SHADOW

THE SHADOW: THE NIGHT AVENGER. HIS REAL IDENTITY IS KENT ALLARD, A WORLD WAR I FLYING ACE. HIS MOST FREQUENTED ALIAS IS LAMONT CRANSTON, WEALTHY MAN ABOUT TOWN WHO OWNS CRANSTON ENTERPRISES. HE HAS THE POWER ① TO CHANGE HIS FEATURES BY MUSCULAR CONTORTIONS; ② VENTRILOQUISM; ③ HYPNOTISM; ④ TO CLOUD MEN'S MINDS ONLY WHEN WEARING HIS TRADITIONAL RAIMENT. HIS UNIFORM CONSISTS OF A FIERY-OPAL GIRASOL RING, A SLOUCHHAT (SINCE MODERNIZED), A HUGE CAPE THAT ENCOMPASSES HIS ENTIRE PERSON. NOW WE REACH A DISCREPANCY. ACCORDING TO THE STREET & SMITH PULP MAG, THE SHADOW WORE GLOVES AND CARRIED TWO .45 CALIBER AUTOMATICS. ON RADIO HE HAD NEITHER.

MARGO LANE: THIS BRUNETTE WAS ORIGINALLY THE GIRLFRIEND OF THE REAL LAMONT CRANSTON WHO SURRENDERED HIS IDENTITY TO ALLARD IN TIBET. ERGO, MARGO ALONE KNEW THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE SHADOW AND WHAT HAPPENED TO LAMONT. IN THE PULPS AND ON RADIO SHE WAS THE SHADOW'S GIRLFRIEND AND TRAVELLING COMPANION(?). IN THE PAPERBACKS SHE IS THE TOP AGENT IN THE SHADOW'S ANTI-CRIME ORGANIZATION. IN THE RADIO PUBLICATIONS COMIC BOOKS, SHE WAS LAMONT'S SECRETARY BUT KNEW NOTHING OF HER BOSS'S DUAL ROLE.

CHEN T'A TZE: THE TIBETAN GURU WHO CHANGED ALLARD INTO THE GRIM AVENGER, AS FAR AS I KNOW, HE AND ALLARD WERE NEVER MENTIONED ON RADIO.

BURBANK: HE WAS ALMOST AS SECRET AS THE SHADOW. BURBANK EXISTS ON A SMALL TV SCREEN IN THE SECRET BLUE ROOM OF THE SHADOW. HE HEADS THE INTELLIGENCE SURVEY OF THE SHADOW'S ORGANIZATION.

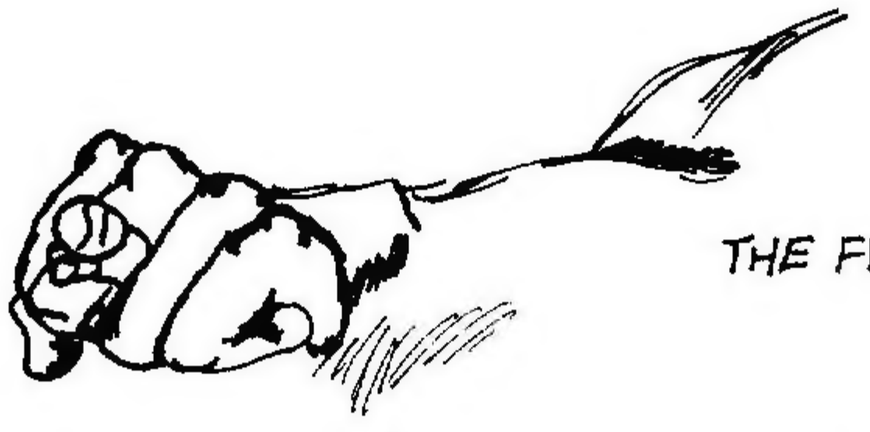
STANLEY: CRANSTON'S CHAUFFEUR AND TRUSTED AGENT.

MOE SHREVNITZ: OTHERWISE KNOWNAS "SHREVVIE" WAS SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE AGENT FOR THE SHADOW. HIS COVER IS BEING A "HACK". IT'S REMAINED THAT WAY FOR 37 YEARS.

COMMISSIONER WESTON: HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THE CRANSTON-SHADOW RELATIONSHIP. HE LOOKS UPON CRANSTON AS AN AMATEUR DETECTIVE WHO PROVES USEFUL.

HARRY VINCENT: ANOTHER OF THE SHADOW'S AGENTS. HE WAS USED ON RADIO AND IN PAPERBACKS.

NOTE: MARGO LANE WAS THE ONLY PERSON TO KNOW, BESIDES CHEN T'A TZE, LAMONT CRANSTON (THE REAL ONE), AND ALLARD, THAT ALLARD WAS THE SHADOW. "SHREWIE", STANLEY AND THE OTHERS ONLY KNEW THAT LAMONT CRANSTON WAS THE SHADOW. THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT'D HAPPENED TO CRANSTON.



THE FIERY OPAL GIRASOL RING.

THE SHADOW IN "DOOM CULT"

NIGHT IN THE CITY... WITH A FOG SO THICK YOU COULD FEEL IT!
YES... EVEN FELT IN THE SULTRY SOLITUDE OF THE VILLAGE!
WHERE, IN A BACKROOM A BRAZIER BURNS INCENSE!

©1968 CONDÉ NAST PUBLICATIONS

ARE YOU READY TO JOIN THE SPIRIT OF DENARES, SIR DONALD?

I AM READY, FATHER!

GOOD-BYE, SIR DONALD!

2

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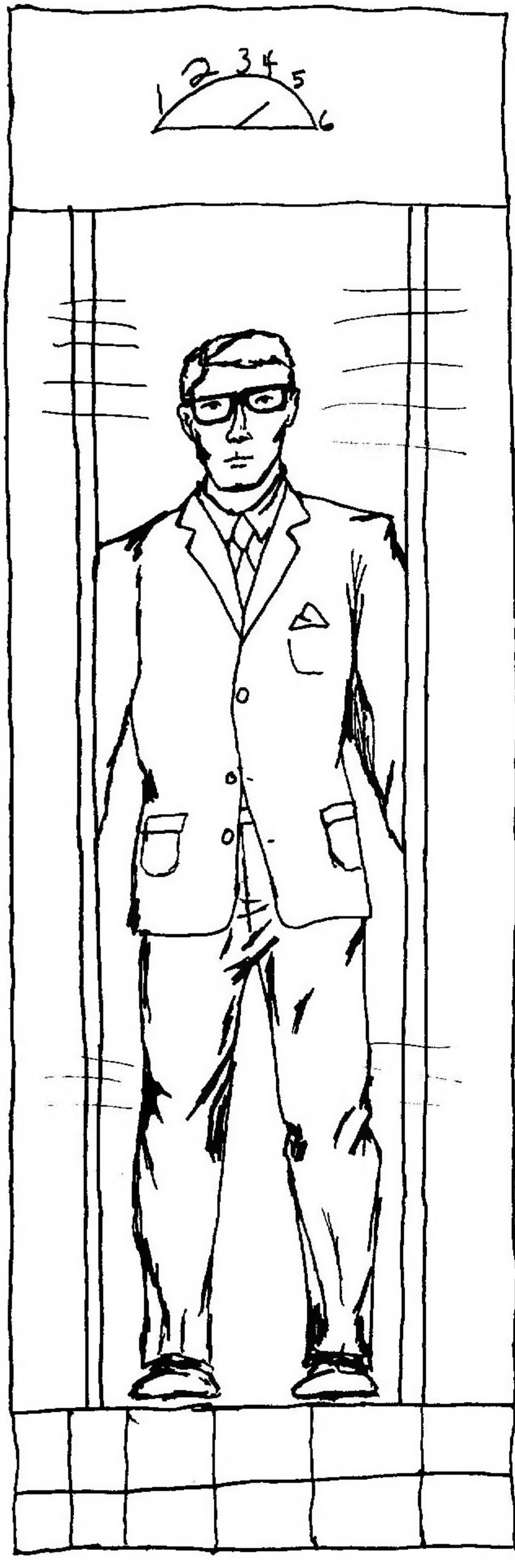


FRANSTON
NTERPRISES
LAMONT! I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU BACK SO EARLY!

THE CONFERENCE GOT BOGGED DOWN, SO WE PUT IT OFF UNTIL TOMORROW
BY THE WAY... DID STANLEY GET BACK YET?

OH YES! HE GOT BACK A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
WHAT'S THIS MARGO?
WHAT'S WHAT?
3

I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA! IT CAME IN LAST NIGHT'S MAIL AND SECURITY DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT IT!
THIS PARCEL. DO YOU KNOW WHO SENT IT?
AT LEAST WE KNOW IT ISN'T A BOMB!
WHY, IT'S A LUMP OF CLAY!
A LUMP OF CLAY?!

THERE'S AN INSCRIPTION READING: "FAIR IS FOUL AND FOUL IS FAIR./ YOU ARE A FOOL AND DO NOT CARE/ OF MY WRATH, MACBETH BE-WARE/ LET THIS FACE GIVE YOU HIS SHARE."

THAT'S PRETTY POOR SHAKESPEARE

YES, BUT IT MAKES AN INTERESTING PAPERWEIGHT.

WITH THAT, LAMONT CRANSTON'S EYES RE-VERTED TO THEIR NATURAL CONDITION, THE EYES OF THE SHADOW!

TO EACH HIS OWN, HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOUR APPOINTMENT WITH COMMISSIONER WESTON?

THERE'S ALWAYS A CHANCE!

HOW CAN I?

SLAM

MARGO!

Y-YES?

YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME AREN'T YOU?

WELL YES!

I REMEMBER ALL TOO WELL!

DON'T YOU REMEMBER THAT AGREEMENT WE MADE YEARS AGO?

HOW CAN YOU CONTROL YOUR EMOTIONS, LAMONT? I REMEMBER WHEN WE USED TO HAVE MORE THAN JUST DATES, YOU WERE MORE... HUMAN, THEN. NOW— YOU'RE JUST A ROBOT AN UNFEELING ROBOT. DON'T YOU KNOW THAT AFTER YEARS WITH YOU, I'M BOUND TO FEEL MORE THAN JUST A SENTIMENTAL ATTACHMENT TO YOU?

I KNOW, MARGO BUT, I MUST REMAIN THIS WAY. THAT'S THE ONLY WAY THE SHADOW CAN WORK!

IF THE SHADOW DECAYS INTO A NORMAL HUMAN, IT MEANS HIS END... AND MINE!

AND I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T LIKE THAT, NOW, TURN OFF THE WATER WORKS AND TELL STANLEY TO BRING THE ROLLS AROUND!

LEFT ALONE WITH HIS THOUGHTS, LAMONT FEELS THE FIRST PANGS OF GUILT ABOUT HIS OTHER SELF.

IS SHE RIGHT? AM I JUST A MACHINE OF FRIGHT AND DEATH?

HA-HA-HA

ENOUGH OF THE SELF-ANALYSIS. STANLEY'S PROBABLY WAITING, SO'S COMMISSIONER WESTON.

YOU'RE A LITTLE LATE, CRANSTON. IF YOU WERE ON THE FORCE, YOU'D BE IN HOT WATER RIGHT NOW.

I CALLED YOU, LAMONT, BECAUSE THESE MILLIONAIRE MURDERS ARE BECOMING QUITE RAMPANT. I CAN'T TURN UP ANYTHING!

AND THE MAYOR'S GETTING ON MY BACK!

I'M HOPING THAT YOU CAN DO SOMETHING. MY MEN HAVEN'T GOTTEN ONTO ANYTHING. SO FAR, THE MURDERS ARE COMMITTED WITHOUT EVIDENCE OF A STRUGGLE!

WITHOUT A NORMAL STRUGGLE? MUST BE A DART! - OR AN [illegible]ECTION! *

YES, AT ALL THE SITES WE FOUND HYPOS AND WIERD PROBABLY EASTERN HIPPIE JUNK.

YEAH, AND LARGE SUMS OF MONEY WERE WITHDRAWN FROM THE VICTIMS' BANK ACCOUNTS BEFORE THE MURDERS.

YOU MEAN THERE'S A POSSIBILITY OF SOME KIND OF ORIENTAL CULT FLEECING THESE PEOPLE?

OKAY, GIVE ME THE FILES AND I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN TURN UP!

I CERTAINLY APPRECIATE THIS, LAMONT,

IT'S NOTHING. FOR THE SHADOW.

* THE BLOTTED WORD IS "INJECTION".

TO BE CONCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF EXCELSIOR!

8

TIME OUT FROM STORIES AND ARTICLES- TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE MARVELOUS THINGS WE HAVE FOR SALE!

COMICS.

(ONLY 40C - LOW PRICED)

ANY 1961 ISSUE FROM DC- (BRAVE & BOLD, BATMAN, SUPERMAN, #12 of GREEN LANTERN, FLASH) $1.00

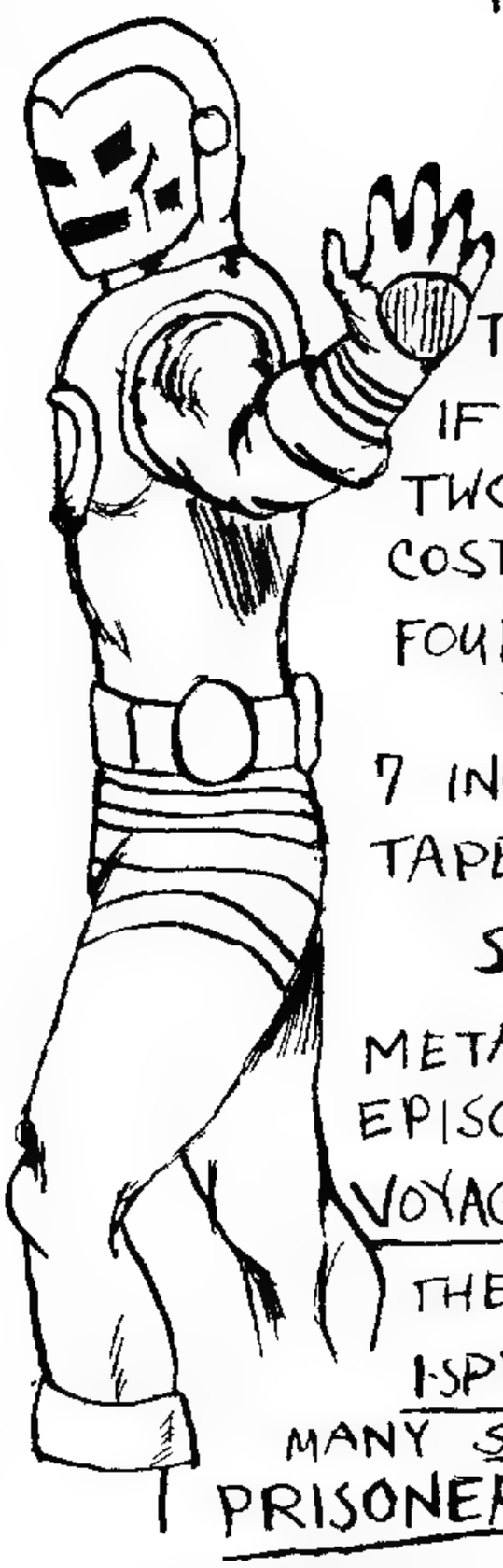
ANY 1963 MARVEL (FANTASTIC FOUR, SPIDERMAN) $1.00

WE CANNOT START TO LIST ANY STUFF BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN — SEND FOR OUR HAND-WRITTEN LIST.

WE DO HAVE THIS ONE-OFFER ——

D. DEVIL'S #1-8 - $5.00 THE WHOLE LOT!!!

FROM: EXCELSIOR
2060 NICHOLL AVE.
SCOTCH PLAINS, N.J.
07076



WE HAVE TAPES OF MANY THINGS - MAINLY RECORDS AND T.V. SHOWS.

WE SELL THE TAPES ON THE BASIS OF HOW MUCH WE CAN BUY THE TAPES WE PUT THE RECORDINGS ON FOR. IF WE RECEIVE AN ORDER FOR TWO HOURS OF STUFF IT WILL COST $3.95. - THREE HOURS - $4.95. FOUR HOURS - $5.95. (MINIMUM: 2 HOURS)

THEY WILL BE RECORDED ON 7 INCH REELS OF 1 MIL ACETATE TAPE. (SCOTCH BRAND)

SOME OF THE STUFF:

METAMORPHOSIS - A STAR TREK EPISODE NOMINATED FOR AN EMMY.

VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA THE PREMIERE. ← LAND OF GIANTS

I-SPY - THE PREMIERE SHOW

MANY STAR TREK & MERCURY THEATRE: WAR OF THE WORLDS (1938)

PRISONER - THE FINAL TWO EPISODES

AVENGERS - FINAL EPISODE WITH MRS. PEEL.

ALL THE ABOVE ARE 60 MINUTES.

SEND FOR OUR HAND WRITTEN TAPE - LIST.

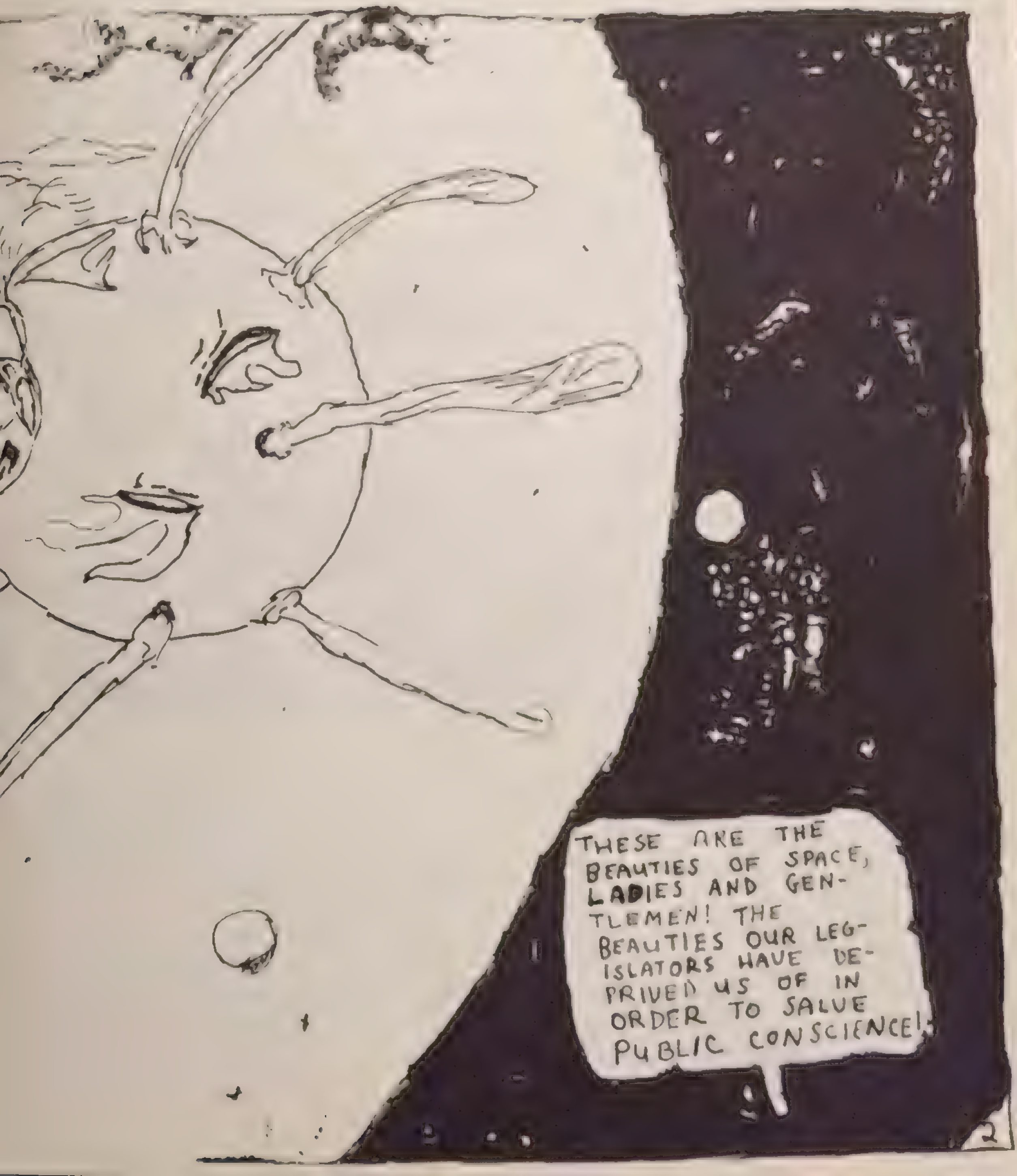
P.S. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ORDERED AFTER OUR FIRST AD APPEARED - WE'RE SORRY FOR THE WAIT! THE AD WAS SUPPOSED TO SAY - "DUE OUT IN OCTOBER"! WE HOPE THIS 'ZINE REPAYS THE INCONVENIENCE.

THE JOURNEYS OF..

HELMONT

DEVRIE

by
Salvatore
Capato


THESE ARE THE BEAUTIES OF SPACE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! THE BEAUTIES OUR LEGISLATORS HAVE DEPRIVED US OF IN ORDER TO SALVE PUBLIC CONSCIENCE!

THESE SLIDES EXCITE MEN'S MINDS. MAN WAS NOT MADE TO LEAVE A FRONTIER ALONE!

SPACE IS A FRONTIER!

You ASK THEN, WHY THERE IS A LAW (CODE 73) FORBIDDING SPACE EXPLORATION!

THAT LAW WAS PASSED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE WAR WITH MARS- WHEN WE DESTROYED THE ENTIRE MARTIAN RACE!

SUCH A LAW WOULD PREVENT A MASSACRE FROM OCCURRING AGAIN-TO STOP ANOTHER SUCH BLOW TO OUR CONSCIENCES! SUCH A STUPID REASON FOR A LAW SHOULD MAKE US VOTE AGAINST IT IN THE NEXT ELECTION! I AM FORWARDING A PETITION FOR ITS REPEAL!

THANK YOU, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

CLAP CLAP

WELL WHAT'D YOU THINK OF HIS SPEECH, PROFESSOR?

CLICK!

I AGREE WITH HIM TOTALLY- WE MUST GET RID OF THAT LAW- OR EXPLORE SPACE SOME OTHER WAY!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN PROFESSOR?

NOTHING AS SINISTER AS I INTIMATED, HELMONT.

THAT'S OUR SPACE SHIP-BUT IT'S INCOMPLETE, HELMONT!

IT'S BEAUTIFUL, PROFESSOR!

IT DEFINITELY IS GREAT! BUT WHY SHOW ME?

HELMONT! YOU DON'
MEAN YOU'D REPORT US?

NO, THAT IS, UNLESS YOU WON'T LET ME BE ITS PILOT!

REALLY, I FIND YOUR PREOCCUPATION WITH HIM THESE PAST MONTHS HARD TO UNDER-STAND!

OH, WE'RE WORKING ON A PROJECT! WHEN'S DINNER?

CLICK!

I'LL JUST WATCH VIDI-SCREEN TILL DINNER!

MICH
DANI

WE MUST GIVE FORCEFUL DEMON-STRATION OF OUR VIEWS!

WHAT CAN HE MEAN? IS HIS SUGGESTION...

GET THEM, MAKE THEM CHANGE!

T

HEH-HEH! NOW YOU'RE AN EXTORTIONIST. BUT THAT'S THE REASON I BROUGHT YOU HERE-WE BELIEVE YOU'RE THE ONLY MAN FOR THE JOB!

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN, HELMONT?

AT PROFESSOR DENTON'S!

SLAM!

ELLE, EL'S SPEAKING!

SHH! I'D LIKE TO HEAR WHAT HE'S SAYING!

IN THE PAST 4 MONTHS MY PLEAS FOR CODE 73'S REPEAL! THE LEGISLATOR'S HAVE SHAMED ME CONSTANTLY!

VOLT

DUE TO RIOTING AGAINST "CODE 73"...

A STEP-UP OF MILITIA IS CRACKING DOWN ON ALL PROPULSION SCIENTISTS!

WHAT'S THE SITUATION?

WILKES LEFT! HE'S SELLING US OUT-HE'S TOO AFRAID OF THE MILITIA!

ONLY ONE WAY TO SUCCEED NOW!

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! YOU HAVEN'T EVEN HAD A CHANCE FOR GOODBYES!

I WILL DO WHAT I MUST!

3 2 1 ZERO

VROOSH!

I'VE GOT TO SEE DENTON!

HELMONT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

ONLY TO SEE PROFESSOR DENTON!

ALL IS READY! TOO BAD ONLY ONE CAN GO!

BY THE ORDER OF QUIGLY, JUDGE OF THIS DISTRICT, I PLACE YOU UNDER ARREST FOR TREASON!

IT'S TOO LATE! AURIE'S GOING TO SPACE! I'LL STAND TRIAL BUT IT'S BEEN ACQUITTED!

Summons and Warrant of Arrest
Charge: TREASON

SPIDERMAN
©1968 MARVEL COMICS.

THIS IS THE MARVEL AGE!!!

EDITORIAL & ILLUSTRATIONS BY SAL CAPUTO
QUESTIONS BY S.C. & THE KIZER

FIRST IN A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS WITH MARVEL'S PROS!

I DON'T THINK THAT ANY COMICS FAN IS UNAWARE OF THE FANTASTIC MARVEL COMICS!

WHY?

BECAUSE, THE WRITING WAS SO INSTRUMENTAL IN THE SURGE OF COMIC BOOK READING ALL OVER AMERICA. MARVEL COMICS—BEFORE THE POPULARITY OF ITS HEROES SET IN—WAS THE FIRST GROUP THAT SHOWED THAT SUPER-HEROES COULD BE DEALT WITH AS HUMANS.

BUT, ALL THIS WE KNOW VERY WELL. WE ALL KNOW THE HISTORY OF OUR FAVORITE MARVEL CHARACTERS, OR DO WE?

WHAT ABOUT THE GREATEST CHARACTERS THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP HAS EVER COME UP WITH? STAN LEE AND JACK KIRBY. DO YOU KNOW WHAT STAN REALLY THINKS? DO YOU KNOW WHAT WAS THE FIRST STRIP THAT JACK KIRBY WORKED ON? WE DIDN'T, AND THAT'S WHY-WHEN SEARCHING FOR AN INTERESTING FEATURE FOR THIS ISSUE OF EXCELSIOR-WE WENT TO MARVEL AND POSED THESE FEW QUESTIONS TO STAN LEE AND JACK KIRBY.

Q. WHAT MADE YOU WRITE IN THE NEW STYLE THAT MARKED THE INCEPTION OF THE MARVEL AGE?

STAN: NEEDED THE DOUGH! ALSO, BORED WITH OLD STYLE.

Q. DID YOU FEEL YOU WOULD RISE TO YOUR PRESENT HEIGHT OF ACHIEVEMENT OR JUST FADE OUT AS OTHERS WITH AS MUCH ABILITY TO ENTERTAIN HAD PREVIOUSLY?

STAN: SHUCKS-I THOUGHT I'D RISE HIGHER!

MR. FANTASTIC
©1968 M.C.G.

Q. DO YOU FEEL DIFFERENTLY ABOUT COMICS NOW THAN YOU DID THEN? IF NOT, WHY HAVE YOUR COMICS CHANGED SO SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE MARVEL AGE?
STAN: I'M OLDER-WISER-HUNGRIER!

Q. WHAT HERO OR HEROES IN YOUR YOUTH REALLY INSPIRED YOU TO WRITE COMICS?
STAN: NO HERO-I JUST WANTED TO WRITE.

Q. AT THAT TIME DID YOU IDEALIZE THE STORIES THAT JOE SIMON WROTE WITH JACK KIRBY?
STAN: YEP!

Q. DO YOU THINK THAT SIMON & KIRBY WERE A BETTER TEAM THAN LEE & KIRBY?
STAN: NOPE!

Q. WHO CONCEIVED THE F.F.? YOU OR JACK?
STAN: BOTH — 'TWAS MAINLY MY IDEA, BUT JACK CREATED CHARACTERS VISUALLY.

Q. WHY IS THE HULK A CARBON COPY OF THE THING?
STAN: HE ISN'T!

Q. WHAT MAKES FORMER D.C. FANS SO ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT MARVEL THAT TWO OF THEM, GARY FRIEDRICH AND ROY THOMAS, WRITE FOR YOU?
STAN: THEY HAVE GOOD TASTE — (SOME OF 'EM).

Q. WHY DO YOU THINK THAT THE LATEST CHARLTON COMICS BID FOR POWER IN THE COMICS WORLD FAILED WHEN THEY HAD ARTISTS LIKE DITKO AND WRITERS LIKE FRIEDRICH?
STAN: IT WOULD TAKE A WHOLE BOOK FOR ME TO ANSWER THAT.

Q. WHY HAS SPIDER-MAN CHANGED SO RADICALLY? IS IT BECAUSE OF STEVE DITKO'S DEPARTURE?
STAN: PARTIALLY — ALSO, ALL OUR CHARACTERS KEEP CHANGING.

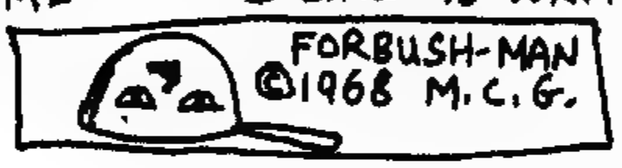
Q. HAVE YOU ACHIEVED ALL THE GOALS YOU WANTED TO REACH AT THE OUTSET OF THE MARVEL AGE?
STAN: NOBODY EVER FULLY ACHIEVES A GOAL - BY THE TIME IT'S ACHIEVED, THERE'S ANOTHER ONE AHEAD.

Q. DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE CHARACTER IN THE MARVEL GROUP? IF SO, WHO AND WHY? IF NOT, WHY?
STAN: I LOVE 'EM ALL. IT'S LIKE ASKING A PARENT, WHO'S HIS FAVORITE CHILD!

Q. WHICH CHARACTER HAS BEEN THE MOST WELL-RECEIVED BY YOUR FANS?
STAN: IT VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH. ALMOST ALL ARE EXTREMELY POPULAR.

Q. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THESE QUESTIONS?
STAN: I'M GETTING WRITER'S CRAMP!

Q. WHY DID YOU BRING OUT "N.B.E."?
STAN: IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME —— I LIKE TO WRITE HUMOR. 'NUFF SAID!
S.L.



WE'RE SORRY ABOUT PUTTING STAN ON THE SPOT WITH ALL THOSE QUESTIONS, BUT WE WANTED TO HAVE SOME INTERESTING QUESTIONS. I THINK THESE REVEAL STAN LEE TO US JUST A SHADE BETTER THAN THE LETTERCOLS OR BULLPEN PAGES EVER COULD.

WE REALIZE THAT MOST OF STAN'S ANSWERS WERE IN KEEPING WITH HIS PUBLIC IMAGE AS A CLOWN. HOWEVER SINCE JACK KIRBY HAS NEVER REALLY SPOKEN WITH FANS ABOUT HIS WORK (AS FAR AS WE KNOW) LET'S SEE WHAT TYPE OF IMAGE HE PROJECTS.

Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN THE SIMON-KIRBY TEAM OF THE FORTIES (E.G. WHO CREATED CHARACTERS, WROTE THE STORIES, INKED, ETC.).
JACK: JOE AND I DID EQUALLY WELL IN ALL PHASES OF THE ART AND STORIES. HOWEVER HE WAS BETTER SCHOOLED IN LETTERING AND PRODUCTION.

Q. DID YOU DRAW THE VISION? IF YOU DID, DO YOU REMEMBER THE POWERS THAT HE POSSESSED AND COULD YOU TELL US OF THESE POWERS?

(2)

JACK: I CREATED THE VISION AS A FEATURE OF MARVEL COMICS. HE WAS THE FORE-RUNNER OF THE "SPIDERMAN AND SILVER SURFER EYE". (ED'S NOTE: THE HUGE PUPIL-LESS EYEBALLS BOTH HEROES POSSESS.) IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY HIS POWERS WERE OF A MYSTIC NATURE.

THE VISION
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Q. WHY DO YOU PORTRAY THOR WITH LONG, BLONDE HAIR INSTEAD OF THE TRADITIONAL RED HAIR AND BEARD? NORSE LEGENDS.

JACK: THE NORSE LEGENDS ARE FREE DOMAIN. A TRADITIONALIST WILL LEAVE THEM AS THEY ARE. AS A CREATIVE PERSON I MUST TREAT THEM IN THE CONTEXT OF "NOW." TODAY, BLONDES HAVE MORE FUN.

THOR
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Q. HOW DO YOU ACHIEVE THE "HONEYCOMB" EFFECT YOU HAD IN THE BACKGROUND OF FANTASTIC FOUR #72, MARCH '68'S COVER?

JACK: ALL EFFECTS EMERGE FROM DRAWING STYLE. THE REFERRED TO "EFFECT" MERELY ILLUSTRATED MY CONCEPT OF THAT PARTICULAR ATMOSPHERE.

Q. WHY WAS THERE A CHANGE IN CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SHIELD? I MEAN FROM THE TRIANGULAR SHIELD OF CAPTAIN AMERICA #1, 1941 TO THE PRESENT CIRCULAR, AND WHEN DID THIS CHANGE TAKE PLACE?

JACK: THE CHANGE WAS A MUTUAL DECISION AND TOOK PLACE EARLY IN THE SERIES.

Q. WHAT WAS THE ORIGINAL INTENT OF THE FIGHTING AMERICAN—WHY WAS HE CREATED?

JACK: FIGHTING AMERICAN WAS ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT A CAPTAIN AMERICA. IT STARTED OFF IN A SERIOUS VEIN. BUT I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NOVEL TO GIVE IT A SATIRICAL TWIST AND PLAYED IT THAT WAY!

Q. HOW LONG DID FIGHTING AMERICAN LAST (FROM WHAT YEAR TO WHAT YEAR)?

JACK: FIGHTING AMERICAN CAME TO LIFE AND DIED IN THE "1950'S."

Q. WHAT DID STEVE ROGERS DO AFTER WW II FOR A LIVING AND HOW DID BUCKY FIT INTO THIS OCCUPATION?

JACK: I DIDN'T PARTICIPATE IN THE SERIES AFTER THE WAR, WHEN MARVEL BEGAN ITS NEW SUPER-HERO CYCLE AND REVIVED C.A. I ENTERED THE PICTURE.

Q. WHO WAS THE FIRST SUPERHERO YOU DREW?

JACK: THE BLUE BEETLE.

Q. ON A COMIC BOOK LIST WE SAW THIS UNDER FAWCETT PUB. "CAPT. MARVEL #1 (POSS. S&K) S&K= SIMON-KIRBY. DID YOU DRAW OR CREATE THE CAPTAIN MARVEL OF THE FORTIES?

JACK: JOE AND I PRODUCED THAT CAPTAIN MARVEL. BUT IT WAS CREATED BY EDDIE HERRON, A GREAT COMICS WRITER.

Q. WHO WROTE THAT ARTICLE ABOUT JACK RUBY IN THE MAY '67 ISSUE OF ESQUIRE?

JACK: THE ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY JOHN BERENT. I DREW IT.

Q. WHO CREATED THE INHUMANS, YOU OR STAN LEE?

JACK: I DID.

INVISIBLE GIRL
©1968 M.C.G.

Q. DO YOU PLOT THE FANTASTIC FOUR STORIES BY DRAWING THE BASIC STORY AND THEN HAVING STAN WRITE THE DIALOGUE?

JACK: THIS IS STANLEY'S EDITORIAL POLICY. AS A MARVEL ARTIST, I CARRY IT OUT.

SO WE HOPE YOU NOW CAN SEE THAT THE GREATEST DRIVING FORCES OF THE MARVEL AGE ARE MEN WITH IDEAS AND BACKGROUNDS THAT CAN STILL LEAD THE MARVEL AGE TO GREATER GLORY. (NOTE: THIS WAS WRITTEN BEFORE THE "SECOND MARVEL AGE" CAME AROUND.)

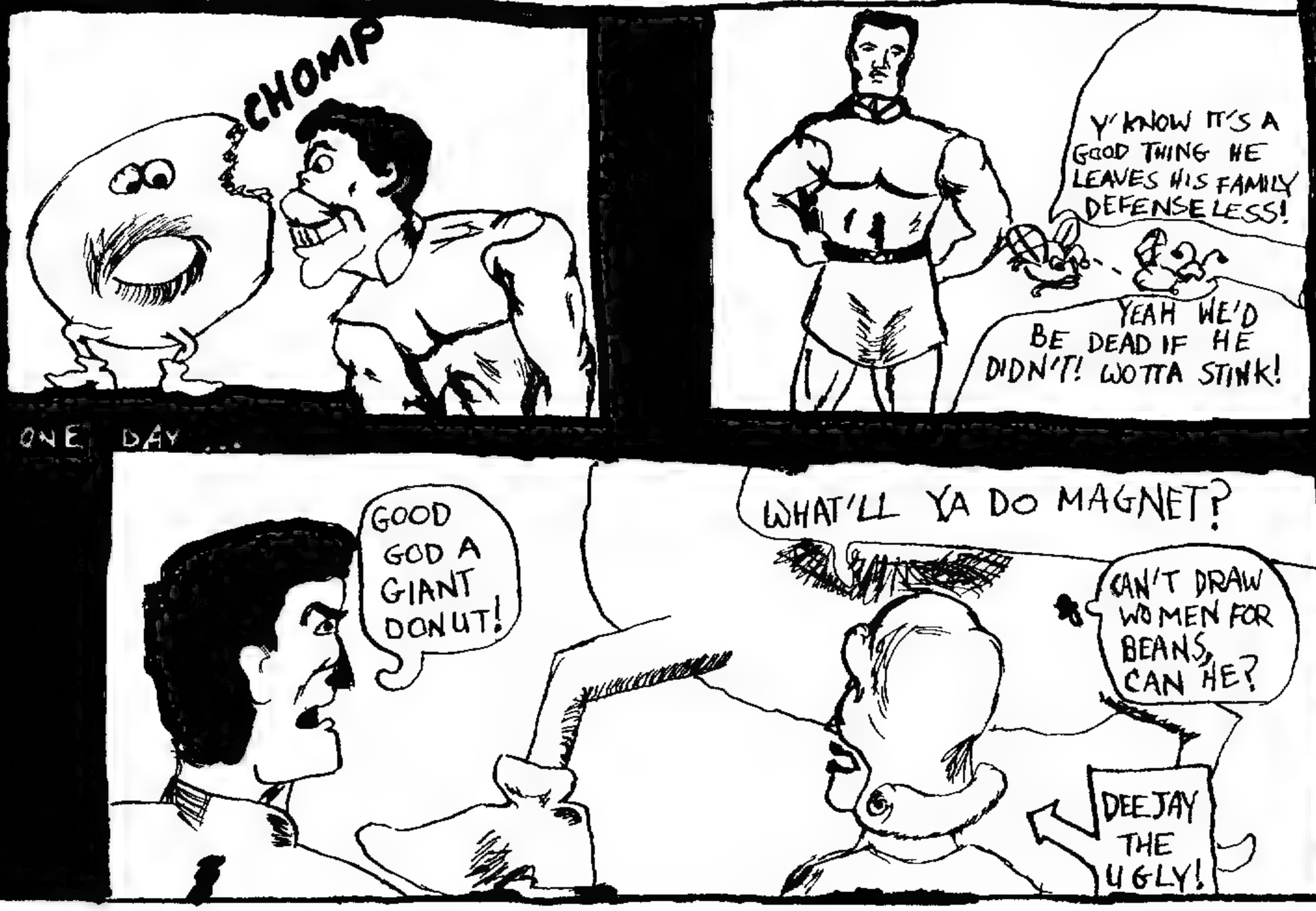
③

IF YOU SAW OUR ADS IN RB&CC NOS. 58+59 - YOU WILL NOTICE WE EXPECTED ALAN HANLEY TO DO A STRIP - BUT YOU'LL NOTICE THAT THERE WERE ADS FROM AT LEAST 10 ZINES THAT HAD HIM AT WORK. WE APPRECIATED HIS OFFER TO DO A STRIP! - BUT WE DID NOT PRESS HIM TO DO IT WHEN HE SAID HE MIGHT BE UNABLE TO FINISH. THANKS ALAN!

"What for did you do it?"

(CO-STARRING: **MAGNET: DONUT BITER** - AFTER CAREFUL ARRANGEMENT WITH M.M. PUBLICATIONS - OLD KEY COMICS)

FAR-OFF IN THE FUTURE EXISTS THE LAND OF PAN AM - WHERE IT IS A CRIME TO EAT SWEETS — FOR EATING SWEETS TENDS TO MAKE YOU FAT - AND THAT UNDERMINES THE REPUBLIC. BUT EVIL FORCES SEND DONUTS TO CONQUER PAN AM - THE ONLY MAN IN THE WAY IS MAGNET.


CHOMP
Y' KNOW IT'S A GOOD THING HE LEAVES HIS FAMILY DEFENSELESS!
YEAH WE'D BE DEAD IF HE DIDN'T! WOTTA STINK!
ONE DAY...
GOOD GOD A GIANT DONUT!
WHAT'LL YA DO MAGNET?
CAN'T DRAW WOMEN FOR BEANS, CAN HE?
DEEJAY THE UGLY!

I'M SCARED TO FIGHT HIM—HE'S TOO BIG! I'LL SEND HIM (IN THIS TINY TIME CAPSULE) BACK TO THE STONE AGE: 1968!

MEN

4000 3000 2000 1968

IN THE GAYLY SLANTED CIGAR BAR - LARK KENT - MILD-MANNERED CIGARETTE SALESMAN HEARS...

A GIANT DONUT'S INVADING US!

THIS IS A JOB FOR SUPER STUFF!

THEN AGAIN I COULD ALWAYS LEAVE IT TO QUACK-MAN OR SQUAWKMAN OR WINNER WOMAN OR SOME OTHER JUSTEST LEAGUER!

BUT THE SUPER STUFF SIGNAL FLASHES IN THE SKY...

HELP

I'M COMIN'!

AN AMAZING TRANSFORMATION...

OOPS! — HEH-HEE! WRONG MAG!

L.S.M.F.T.*

*LOUSY SUCROSE MEANS FATTY TISSUE

ZOP

DON'T IT GET BORING SEING ALL THESE CLOUDS IN THE MIDDLE OF SUPER-HERO TRANSFORMATIONS?

SUPER STUFF

YON, YON AND HITHER!

BOY I COULD SURE USE SOMETHING TO DUNK IN MY COFFEE!

CHOMP-GOOD! COULD USE MORE SUGAR!

SKY TOP RESTAURANT

GOOD GOSH! A GIANT DONUT!

OH I'D RATHER IT BE ANYTHING BUT A SPOOKY GIANT DONUT!

EEK! A MOUSE!

YIKE!

SHUT UP AND EAT!

GORGO AND RODAN WERE A PICNIC COMPARED TO THIS!

HE IS A PICNIC! HE TASTES BETTER THAN THAT FISHY GORGO!

ANOTHER DAY!

DONUTS

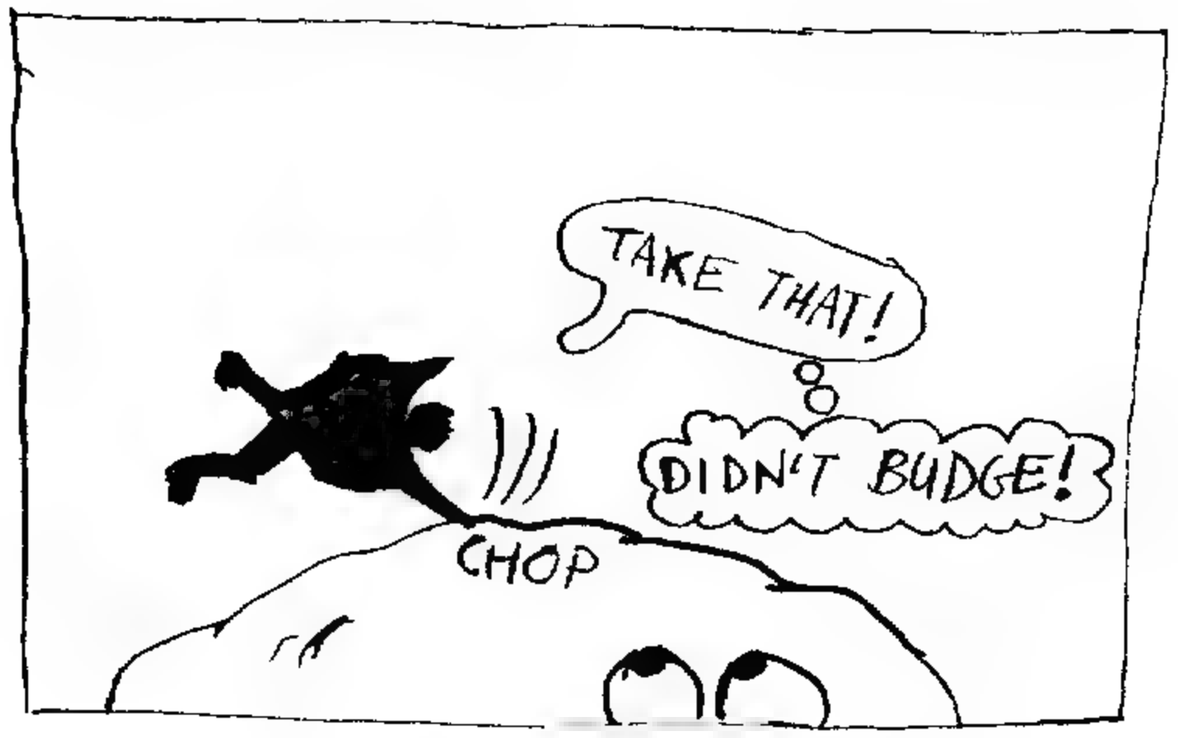
HAROLD-A GIANT DONUT'S STEPPING ON US!

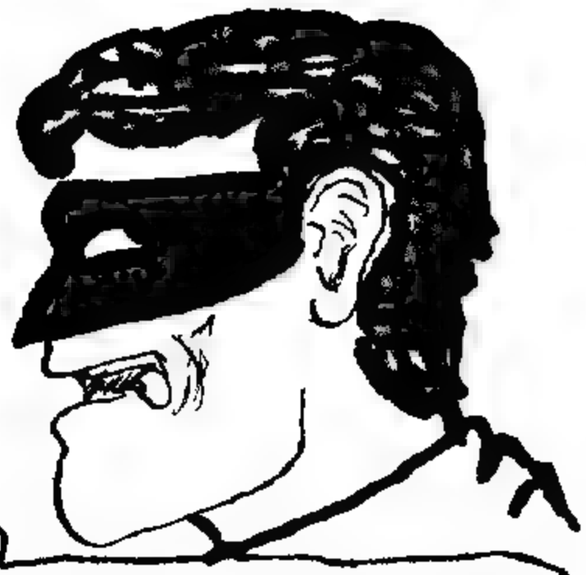
YOU'RE KIDDING!!!

THIS ARTIST SURE AIN'T NO NEAL ADAMS!

GOOD GODFREY! WOTTA HORROR!

(WHY COULDN'T THIS HAPPEN AFTER LUNCH? THEY ALWAYS CATCH ME WHEN I'M HUNGRY. THAT'S WHY MY COMIC BOOK'S GOING TO POT! EVERY TIME I FIGHT A VILLAIN-I BEAT HIM UP IN FIVE(5)SECONDS SO I CAN GET TO LUNCH ON TIME!)





WOTTA STORY! VERY MEANINGFUL AND HAD A MORAL, TOO!

THE END!

THAT LOOKS LIKE FUN MAN, CAN WE PLAY?

HEY

OOOH

UNNPH

HEY MAN, YOU TAKE YOURS, I'LL HELP THE BIRD!

EEEEEL

THE END OF THE GAME

THOSE GUYS'LL PAY-FOR THIS!

WHO WERE THEY?

MORNING:

THEY'RE DOOMED

THE SLING AND SHOT!

WHA...

WHO...WHA

IBU....

WE'RE GONNA GET-IM

Y-YEAH

YEA....

OK...YEA!

(CHOKE GASP!)

SIMULTANEOUSLY:

SLING...

SLING!

HEY SLING...

DON'T WE SHARE THE SPOILS?

WELL?!

NO!

CAUSE I'M COOLEST.

WHY NOT?!

!

NYAAA

WHUP....

POOR LOSER.

Joints baby! To ward off the evil spirits of the **deceptive sun-God.**

We should leave for **ANTHEM.** The first show begins this afternoon.....and we **should** set the bird free.

Okydoke man.

I'm a bird?

½ hour later:

yeah revenge.

You guys learn slow! We ain't ever had anyone come back for more.

Revenge!

BASP(GR

bird?

FLEE little bird!

Oh... A... ..well... ...um

OONGHH

WHILE OUR HEROES ARE SUBDUEING 2 AVENGING VICTIMS OF JUSTICE (SLING + SHOT STYLE) their BIRd IS Calling IN UNWANTED HELP. **THE POLICE!** NEMESIS OF ALL ANTIHEROES (INCLUDING THE SLING + SHOT). THEY WILL Probably bust EVERY-Body IN SIGHT! THE MARIJUANA all over THE PLACE WON'T HELP.

PHONE

YES OFFICER, PLEASE HURRY!

BIRd!

THEY SAW US WITHOUT OUR MASKS!

YEAH! WE MIGHT HAFTA LEAVE FOR A WHILE.

THE WHEELS ARE OUTSIDE.

O.K. YOU GET THE REST OF OUR REEFERS, I'll SEE IF WE GOT GAS.

I'll STRAP ON OUR BEd ROLLS TOO.

OOOOH

I HERE A SIREN! COPS!

COME ON!

THE DOOR'S BUSTED DOWN! AND NOBODY'S INSIDE.

BETTER TAKE A GOOD LOOK.

"MY SOUL IS PSYCHEDELISIZED"
(CHAMBERS BROTHERS)

Stop! OR I'll SHOOT!

GEEK